CAPSULE SUMMARY
Calvert Cliffs State Park
MIHP # CT=1296
Lusby vicinity
Calvert County, Maryland
SP=1966
Public

Calvert Cliffs State Park contains approximately 1,313 acres located on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The scenic centerpiece of the park is the high escarpment along the eastern edge. The park has a varied topography, comprising sandy Chesapeake Bay beaches, tidal marshes, wooded freshwater swamp, nearly vertical cliffs, steep-sided, gullied stream valleys, rolling hills, ponds, overgrown farm fields and upland woods.

Land acquisitions for the park occurred between 1966 and 1982. The park contains few facilities constructed to support recreation purposes and no recreational facilities constructed prior to 1960. The majority of the acreage in the park is designated Maryland wildland and will not be developed.

The buildings and the topography located within Calvert Cliffs State Park do not meet the definition of cultural landscape nor historic district. The buildings and identified resources are widely dispersed throughout the park lands and do not form a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, structures, or objects that are united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. The landscape in the park is not an historic designed landscape, nor does it exhibit the characteristics of an historic vernacular landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped it. Documentation to date does not suggest that the park lands are significant for any association with a historic event, activity or person or an ethnographic landscape that contains a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources.

The individual buildings constructed prior to 1960 located in Calvert Cliffs State Park include a domestic complex, a cottage, and a former Girl Scout Camp. The buildings all date from the mid-twentieth century and do not possess a significant association with the broad patterns of state or local history (Criterion A). These buildings are simply-designed vernacular residential complexes or utilitarian constructions. The extant buildings do not individually exhibit the qualities of architectural significance for their types, periods, or methods of construction; for high artistic value; or, for association with the work of a master (Criterion C). The individual buildings do not possess the qualities of significance under Criteria A or C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Dixon Cemetery (CT-294) and the two historic archeological sites were not evaluated as part of this investigation.

Inventory No.

CT-1296

manufacture of		(indicate preferre				
historic	Calvert Cli	ffs State Park				
other						
2. Location						
street and number	East of ME	Rte 2, 4			no	ot for publication
city, town	Cove Point				X v	icinity
county	Calvert					
3. Owner of F	Property	(give names and mai	ling addresses of	of all owners	i)	
name	Maryland I	Department of Natural Res	sources			
street and number	580 Taylor	Avenue, E-3			telephone	410-260-8154
city, town	Annapolis		state	MD	zip code	21401
Contributing F Contributing F Determined E	Resource in Nat Resource in Loc ligible for the N	f Additional Da ional Register District al Historic District ational Register/Maryland National Register/Maryland	Register			
Recorded by I	HABS/HAER	Research Report				
Other	ion					
6. Classificat	on Ownership	Current Function agriculture	landscape		Resource Cour Contributing	nt Noncontributing

<u>7.</u>	Des	cription			Inventory No.	CT-1296
)	Co	ndition				
		excellent	-	deteriorated		
	X	good	322	ruins		
		fair		altered		

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

#### SUMMARY

Calvert Cliffs State Park contains approximately 1,313 acres located along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay in southern Calvert County, Maryland (Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) Acquisition list 2002; MdDNR 2002). Calvert Cliffs State Park has a varied topography, comprising sandy Chesapeake Bay beaches, bay/stream confluences, tidal marshes, wooded freshwater swamp, nearly vertical cliffs, steeply-sided and gullied stream valleys, rolling hills, ponds, overgrown farm fields, and upland woods. In some areas, the land exhibits a drastic transition from marine coastal environment to upland woods. The highest point in the park is approximately 121 feet above mean sea level (amsl).

The scenic centerpiece of Calvert Cliffs State Park is the high escarpment located on the eastern edge of the park overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. The cliffs comprise stratified sand, silt, clay, bog-iron, and marine fossil depositional layers. A narrow strip of sandy beach lies at the base of these cliffs. Material eroding from the nearly 100 foot high cliffs deposits on this beach. This material includes detritus from all layers, including marine shells, such as large scallop-like species and clams; large boulders of clay and bog iron; and, the trees and foliage that once grew at the top of the cliffs. Atop the cliffs grows a mixed hardwood forest with some pines. Wetlands form where small drainages meet bay waters and form confluences at the floodplain.

The first land acquisitions for Calvert Cliffs State Park occurred in 1966. The last land purchased occurred in 1982. The park contains few facilities constructed to support recreation purposes; no recreational facilities were constructed prior to 1960. The majority of the acreage (1,079 acres) in the park is designated as a Maryland wildland and will not be developed.

Tidal marshes feature grasses, sedges, and herbaceous shrubs punctuated by the occasional small tree. Freshwater swamps are wooded with pines and hardwood species. The cliffs and very steep slopes do not support significant vegetation. Most, if not all, of the park was harvested for timber or cleared for farmland in the past. Timber resources are rich and varied but not mature. Woods range from dense pine and hardwood scrub and small trees in coastal and recently harvested areas to open woods featuring selected large pine and hardwood stands in upland areas. Overgrown farm fields support grasses and small shrubs. Maintained lawn areas, ornamental foliage, shrubbery, and occasional trees are located in the vicinity of park facilities or around the few former residences. Landscape erosion is evident throughout the park. The cliff face along the Chesapeake Bay is actively eroding, and the deeply gullied and rolling landscape shows evidence of a long history of wind and water erosion.

The few recreational or convenience facilities in the park are located in the southwest sector of the park. This quadrant contains playgrounds constructed of recycled tires and wood play equipment; a manmade pond; a wooden footbridge; gravel, dirt and paved parking areas; maintenance sheds constructed in 1999-2000; a comfort station constructed in 1998; and, a small contact station constructed in 1999. This area also is used for parking for hunters and a free mulch pickup location. Paved roads provide access to the pond, playgrounds, maintenance facilities, and parking areas from Maryland Routes 2 and 4. The primary activities conducted in the park are passive recreation, fossil hunting, and hunting.

Few vehicular roads penetrate the interior of the park. Former logging roads crisscross the area. Some of the roads in the southeast area of the park are dead ends and are not in service due to the construction of a liquid natural gas facility along the southern park border. A paved road that turns into a dirt road serves the Bay Breeze Youth Group Area located in the northern area of the park.

Calvert Cliffs State Park contains 13 resources predating 1960. A site visit was conducted during April 2003 to locate the resources. The resources include one nineteenth-century family cemetery, one recorded historic archeological site, two unrecorded archeological sites, and nine buildings and structures dating from the mid-twentieth century. No prehistoric archeological resources were recorded in the archeological sites files at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). The one historic archeological

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site is a bank barn constructed in 1881 that burned in 1993. All buildings constructed for park activities date from post 1970.

#### **METHODS**

The overall purpose of this project is to provide the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) with consistent data on the cultural resources contained within Calvert Cliffs State Park. The survey area consisted of MdDNR-owned lands within the park boundaries as of March 2003 based on a review of property maps verified by the state park personnel during a March 2003 meeting. No MdDNR leased properties were surveyed as part of this project. Property owned by other state agencies or private entities were not surveyed as part of this project.

#### Historical Research

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms and the archeological site files on file at MHT and MdDNR provided the base-line data for historical research conducted for each MdDNR-owned land unit included in the survey. An analysis of the property types and occupation periods of cultural resources provided the basis for identifying the historic themes/historic contexts appropriate to evaluate the historic resources in the park. The development of historic contexts that encompassed the history of land prior to state ownership was synthesized from the architectural and archeological forms and expanded to incorporate information contained in historic maps and other secondary sources, such as published county and local histories and National Register documentation. Research in primary archival materials, such as deed research or genealogical materials available in local historical societies, was not conducted for this project.

Historical research also was undertaken to document the history of the MdDNR land unit. Research was conducted at MdDNR to provide an overview of how each unit came into existence and how the lands that comprise each unit were assembled. The purpose of this research was to determine the reasons behind the establishment of the land unit and subsequent management practices. Sources examined in this research effort included MdDNR real estate acquisition files, land unit files, personnel interviews, park master plans, and relevant secondary sources on the development of parks in the state of Maryland.

#### Field Survey

Archeological reconnaissance survey focused on the relocation of archeological sites recorded in the archeological site files maintained by MHT. The data in the archeological site files was augmented through review of published literature and unpublished reports available at the MHT library. The mapped or reported location of each recorded site was visited and its condition was assessed, based on surface conditions, (e.g., undisturbed, plowed, eroded, graded/contoured, collected, vandalized, dredged, or other).

Architectural field survey comprised built resources constructed prior to 1960, the landscape elements associated with the individual resources, and the overall landscape of the MdDNR-owned land unit. The list of built resources included in the survey was compiled from the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties maintained at the MHT and the Detailed Maintenance List (DMI) provided by the MdDNR. The DMI, compiled during the late 1990s, contained information about building materials and components, as well as information on location, estimated construction date, dates of renovations, and an assessment of condition. The list of built resources for survey was refined through a review of 1:600 scale maps provided by MdDNR and through interviews with MdDNR personnel. No efforts were made to reconcile the building list for buildings identified as constructed post 1960 beyond information gathered from knowledgeable park personnel. Construction dates for built resources were assigned based on available MIHP or published documentation, MdDNR Detailed Maintenance Inventory (DMI), historic maps, building construction materials, stylistic ornamentation, and building typologies.

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Architectural field investigations were conducted on the exteriors of all pre-1960 buildings to verify the character-defining features and materials of previously identified historic buildings as recorded on MIHP forms and to assess the integrity and overall physical conditions of the exterior materials of the resources. Previously unidentified resources constructed prior to 1960 also were surveyed. No additional architectural data or photographs were collected for pre-1960 MdDNR-owned buildings that are pending demolition for which MdDNR has obtained MHT concurrence letters or MHT Determinations of Eligibility classifying the resource as not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The architectural survey of built resources at Calvert Cliffs State Park State Park was conducted in April 2003.

Building conditions of excellent, good, fair, poor, or ruin were assigned during the architectural survey based on the physical appearance of the exterior materials present on the resource at the time of the site visit. The building classifications do not necessarily reflect those condition assessments recorded in the MdDNR's DMI. For the purposes of this survey, excellent was defined as the overall absence of conditions requiring maintenance or cosmetic repairs. Good meant that building systems and materials appeared to be sound, with minimal problems noted. Cosmetic conditions, such as minor paint failure due to age of paint or minor deterioration of wood elements, could still be classified as good condition if they appeared to be correctable with minor repair. Fair condition was used to denote problems in several types of exterior materials or systems, such as deterioration in wood elements in several systems that could be corrected through maintenance, but without apparent structural damage. Poor denoted systematic problems in several materials or systems, such as large sections of missing siding or roofing, often resulting in evidence of structural failure. Ruin was used to classify buildings or structures that were no longer usable in their current condition.

#### DESCRIPTIONS

The following descriptions are organized by property type. The property classifications were assigned based on the primary historic function of the property as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service 1997). The property categories are detailed in the accompanying table. Construction dates assigned to the built resources are based on secondary documentation, historic maps, site inspection, personal communications, and the MdDNR detailed maintenance inventory (MdDNR DMI 2002.)

#### RECREATION AND CULTURE

The BAY BREEZE CABIN, constructed in 1950 ("Day Summer Camp" 2001), is located on the north side of the Bay Breeze Area Access Road just north of the top of a steep hill. This two-bay, wood-frame, single-story recreation cabin rests on rubble stone piers and cedar poles. The exterior is clad with horizontal wood siding. The gable roof is sheathed with brown asphalt and fiberglass shingles. The eave has exposed rafter ends. The cabin has a single metal door in the front elevation. A one-bay wooden porch with a nearly flat roof shelters the main entry. The porch has wooden posts and wood flooring. A massive, exterior stone chimney is located right of center in the front elevation. One-over-one-light, metal-sash windows with slip sills and wooden one-by-four-inch surrounds are found on the east, south, and west elevations. A small central porch is located on the rear elevation. The porch is fabricated of pressure-treated lumber and is collapsing. The overall condition of the cabin is fair. The wood elements are deteriorating. The front porch and siding exhibit mildew. Snow fencing blocks access to the sides and rear of the cabin. This fencing has been placed to delineate structural failure. The hill is eroding from under the building, leaving the wood post foundation exposed.

The Bay Breeze Pump House, constructed in 1950, is located across the dirt road and southwest of the Bay Breeze Cabin. The single-cell structure houses electrical water pump facilities. The pump house is constructed of painted concrete block. The roof is a flat concrete slab. A single, centered metal door is located on the east elevation. Metal hardware cloth covers the location of a

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missing block. An electrical power line enters the structure through this void. A metal pipe hand pump is located to the right of the doorway. The condition of the structure is fair. Paint failure was noted. Mildew and mold were observed on the block walls and the exterior pump does not function.

The Bay Breeze Outhouse, constructed in 1950, is located east of and downslope from the Bay Breeze Cabin. This wood-frame, single-story, two-seater outhouse, occupies a rectangular footprint and features two bays. The outhouse is earthfast and the wood sills rest on the ground. The exterior is clad with vertical, flush, wood siding. The outhouse has a low-pitched shed roof clad with composition roll roofing. Twin doors lead to the interior of this building. One door is missing while the other is a board-and-batten door comprised of five vertical planks. Screened openings are located under the eaves in the upper quadrants of the side elevations. The shaft of this outhouse is wood lined and is covered with a framed box featuring two seats and lids. A PVC pipe extends from the shaft through the roof on the left rear of the roof. The outhouse is in poor condition. Structurally, the building is failing. The floor is collapsing into the shaft. The exterior paint is failing and the door is missing.

#### DOMESTIC

The PIPER COTTAGE, constructed circa 1950 (USGS 1987; MdDNR DMI 2002), is located in the southeast area of the park on the west side of an abandoned dirt road that once led northward from Cove Point Road. This road was abandoned due to the construction of the liquid natural gas facility located south of the park boundary along Cove Point Road. The wood-frame, one-story, two-bay by one-bay cottage rests on concrete-block piers. The house is clad with wood shiplap siding. The side gable roof is sheathed in standing-seam metal and the soffit is enclosed. A single interior brick chimney is located on the roof ridge of the south gable. The single entryway is set off-center on the front elevation and contains a five panel wooden door. A single window is located in the opposing bay. The windows are wood-sash, six-over-six-light units with slip sills. This house has a full-width front porch that rests on concrete block piers; the porch is integral to building. The screened porch has an enclosed wood railing. The porch supports are wooden. The condition of this structure is poor. The roof is covered with pine detritus. Paint failure was noted on all elements. Many window frames are missing glazing. The building is open to the elements. The stairs leading into the porch are missing. The porch railing is collapsing.

The remains of a building most likely associated with the Piper Cottage are located east of the cottage on the edge of the cliff. A concrete-block wall foundation is visible in the cliff face. Brick and mortar chunks, standing-seam metal roofing material, metal pipe, terra cotta pipe, and lumber are scattered in an arc ranging twenty feet west of the cliff face and the exposed foundation. Remnants of this building also are visible on the beach and in the Chesapeake Bay waters far below this site. It is apparent that this building has fallen off of the eroding cliff face. A large grove of Phragmites and moderately open woods consisting of hardwoods and pines surround the site of this ruin. The condition of this ruin is poor. Additional cliff face erosion will cause the foundation remnants to fall to the beach and Chesapeake Bay below.

The SKIDMORE HOUSE, constructed circa 1940 (USGS 1987; MdDNR DMI 2002), is located southeast of the Camp Conoy Road in the northwest area of the park. The house faces northwest and is located at the terminus of a long gravel and dirt driveway. This one-story, five-bay house has an irregular form created by multiple additions attached to a rectangular core. Frontfacing gable wings flank the main block. The northeast wing has a rear addition and a solarium addition. It appears that all building foundations are concrete block, though the porches on the front and rear elevations are built on slab foundations. The building exhibits several building materials, including asbestos shingle siding, masonite siding, and concrete block. The building has intersecting gable roofs over the main block and the wings. Shed roofs cover the rear solarium, the front porch, and an addition on the rear of the northeast wing. Roofing materials are brown fiberglass and asphalt shingles. A concrete-block, exterior chimney capped with a brick section projects from the northeast wing. The front porch spans the facade between the front-facing gable wings. The front porch has metal roof supports and railing. The full-width rear porch extends a few feet beyond the rear shed and

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gable ends of the wings. The porch on the southwest wing is half width but centrally located on the southwest facade. A variety of doors and window types are located in this dwelling. Window types include six-over-six-light and two-over-two-light, wood-sash, double-hung units; paired eight-light casements; and, a bay window flanked with fixed lights. The rear solarium exhibits large two-over-one-light, fixed windows. The southwest side porch has screened bays. A variety of wood doors also are found on this building. A metal screen door mounted over the front door is found on the main block. A wood screen door serves as the entrance to the side porch, and a wood door provides access to the northeast wing. The house is in fair condition. Wood elements exhibit warp and dry rot. Paint failure was noted on all wood elements. Window screens appear dry and fragile. The surrounding ornamental landscaping is overgrown. The multiple additions and variety of exterior materials on the Skidmore house have resulted in a lack of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The Skidmore Garage, constructed circa 1940, is located northeast and several feet to the rear of the Skidmore House. The garage is accessed by an extension of the gravel and dirt driveway that serves the house. The wood-frame, three-bay, one-story building rests on a concrete-block and slab foundation. The exterior cladding is flush vertical wood siding with horizontal siding in the upper gables and along the eaves. The front-facing gable roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. Vents are located in the upper gable ends. The main entry is a sliding-track, metal garage door located on the front gable elevation. Two single doors are located on either side of the sliding garage door. These doors are two-panel wood doors with nine fixed lights. Two windows are symmetrically located on each side elevation. The windows are wood-frame, six-over-six-light, double-hung units. The rear elevation has two similar windows placed near the center of the wall. The condition of this garage is poor. Boards are missing from the exterior walls and eaves. The interior is junk filled. Rodent infestation is evident.

The Skidmore Shed was constructed circa 1940. This outbuilding is located to the rear of the Skidmore House. This wood-frame, single-story building rests on a concrete slab foundation. The front elevation is clad with horizontal masonite. The sides and rear elevations are clad in wood board-and-batten siding. The low-pitched shed roof is sheathed in composition roll roofing. The main entrance is a single, centered, wood-panel door; the lights have been boarded up. This door is flanked by four-light casements. A concrete slab has been poured in front of the door to serve as a workspace. The condition of this shed is fair. The roof material is peeling slightly. Paint failure was noted on all wood elements.

The ruins of the Skidmore Barn, constructed circa 1940, are located southeast to the rear of the Skidmore house. The barn ruin is found near the bottom of a stream valley and consists of an approximately thirty by sixty foot concrete-block and slab foundation. It appears that the building was two bays and wood frame. Lag bolts protrude from the concrete blocks that surround the foundation slab. The condition of this ruin is poor. The structural remains are barely above the ground surface. Rust and water damage are affecting the condition of the concrete blocks, slab, and lag bolts.

The Skidmore Outbuilding, constructed circa 1940, is located southeast of the rear of the Skidmore House. The shed is west of the barn ruin near the bottom of a stream valley. This wood-frame, one-story shed has a single bay. The shed sits on a concrete slab and block foundation and is clad with wood clapboard siding. The front-facing gable roof is sheathed in corrugated metal and composition roll roofing. The main entry is a centrally-located wood door with four lights. The windows are wood-frame, horizontal pivot units. Windows are symmetrically located in the southeast and southwest elevations. A small, two-by-two wooden hatch is located centrally in the northwest elevation. This door has been closed off by interior renovations. This building is in poor condition. The siding exhibits signs of rot and overall paint failure. The front door in the north elevation is falling off of the hinges. The roofing is rusted and failing.

#### **FUNERARY**

The DIXON CEMETERY (MIHP # CT-294) is a large nineteenth-century family cemetery located just beyond the eastern treeline

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of a farm field now used as a public hunting area. The hunting area is located southeast of Camp Conoy Road in the northwest portion of the park. The area has an unpaved parking lot with an access road to Camp Conoy Road. The Dixon Cemetery is located in a moderately wooded and overgrown area. Hardwoods and underbrush dominate the setting. Ornamental foliage covers the ground surface. This ornamental foliage is primarily dense vinca with some daffodils and some ivy. At least twenty gravestones are visible in the cemetery. A square area enclosed by wrought iron fencing contains the oldest gravestones, those of the Dixon family. The earliest stone is dedicated to Richard Dixon, who died in 1812. Other stones also date from the nineteenth century. Inside the wrought iron fence, the stones face east while the stones outside the fence face west. Not all of the headstones have matching footstones. A group of large, approximately one-foot above-ground surface, rectangular fieldstones and approximately one-foot rectangular bog iron chunks are found southeast of the wrought iron fenced area and southeast of the formal stones. These stones may be informal or non-traditional grave markers. The arrangement of these possible markers reveals no apparent patterning or organization. The condition of this cemetery is poor. The area is overgrown and nearly hidden from view. Sections of the wrought iron fence have fallen over and the gate has fallen off of the hinges; the granite base remains. Trees have grown into and through the fence. Some stones have toppled, while other stones exhibit evidence of erosion. The Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties Form CT-294 contains a reference to a boundary marker located in the area of this cemetery (Stinson 1979). This monument was not observed during a site visit by RCGA personnel in April 2003. A possible house site also may be located in the vicinity of the cemetery (Cantin and Fisher January 2003). No information about the Dixon Family was located in the secondary sources consulted during this investigation. Additional information may be located in the genealogical files maintained by the Calvert County Historical Society.

#### AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

A TOBACCO BARN, constructed circa 1940, is located northeast of Cove Point Road northeast of the rear of St. Paul's Church and cemetery. It is sited in a mowed area and is accessed from a short road trace that leads from the church parking lot. The barn faces southwest. It is a wood-frame, one-story building with nine bays. The barn rests on concrete-block piers and is clad with vertical wooden siding. The shallow-pitched gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal; the rafter ends are exposed. The main entries occupy the gable ends. The entries contain double doors constructed of vertical wood doors. The condition of this tobacco barn is fair. Some siding planks are rotting and missing members have been replaced with sections of corrugated metal. Holes or faults in the standing-seam metal roofing material have also been patched with corrugated metal sections. The barn appears to be actively used for maintenance and the sapling poles used for hanging tobacco are in place.

The F. HELB BARN (MIHP # CT-285 and Site 18CV329) is the only archeological resource identified in Calvert Cliffs State Park in the MHT archeological site files. The barn was located east of Cove Point Road south of Middleham Chapel. The barn was a classic Pennsylvania bank barn constructed in 1881 (Coxe and Deale 1979). The bank barn rested on a stone foundation and had a pegged timber-framed wood upper story. The forebay was open and the lower level accommodated animal pens. The barn accommodated livestock and hay storage. The Helb barn was later converted into a tobacco barn (Croson and Gibb 1995). As such, the bank barn was unusual for Calvert County, where most barns are tobacco barns. The barn burned in 1993. The brick and fieldstone foundation remains. The foundation measured 36 x 84 ft (11 x 26 m) (Croson and Gibb 1995). It was reported that a farmhouse was located in the vicinity of the barn. On 2 March 2003, a team of archeologists from RCGA visited the site. The site comprised structural ruins and the surrounding landscape. The structural ruin appears to be the remains of a brick and field stone barn that has been built into a hillside. The area surrounding the barn is a grassy field with saplings growing in the ruin interior. Charred timbers, rusted roofing and fire-cracked bricks were evident among the ruins. Ornamental vegetation was observed on the up slope area above and to the northeast of the barn site. The initial burning of the barn appears to be the only damage to the site.

UNKNOWN ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

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The site of a foundation is located approximately one-half mile southwest of the beach just off of the northern shoulder of the gated, dirt access road that leads from the main park entrance to the beach. This site is a wooded area with a low rise topped by a grassy and daffodil-covered, oval-shaped berm. North of the berm the slope drops steeply. The berm is covered with heavy brick scatter. The individual bricks in this scatter are burned, crazed, glazed, eroded, and broken. Located in the central area of a small rise is a depression that appears have been a former cellar hole. Burnt timbers are located in this depression, as is a large standing tree and an in-situ foundation corner. This corner is located in the northeastern quadrant of the depression. The foundation is made up of alternating single courses of headers and stretchers. These bricks exhibit similar characteristics as the bricks found in the surrounding scatter. The use of the site is undocumented. It has been reported as the site of the Calvert County Poorhouse (Frere 2003). No additional research was conducted on this site during the current investigation. The condition of this site is fair. The scatter appears stable despite the close proximity of the steep slope. The site is remote and it may become a target for vandalism or looting because of the close proximity of the road.

## Table of Resources at Calvert Cliffs State Park

MIHP/Site #	SITENO ( or DMI #)	MHT NAME	MdDNR/Other Names	County	Quad	Address	Property Category	Property Sub- Category	Property ID	Date of Resource	Condition	Resource Count	Notes	MHT Concurrence
			Bay Breeze Outhouse		Cove Point	End of Camp Bay Beach Rd, off Camp Conoy Rd.	Culture	Outdoor Recreation	outhouse	1950	Poor	building-1	Girl Scout Camp	
	023		Tobacco Barn	L-15/2/CF-2007/	Cove Point		Agriculture/ Subsistence	Processing	tobacco barn	1940	Fair	building-1		
	010		Bay Breeze Cabin		Cove Point	End of Camp	Recreation/ Culture	Outdoor Recreation	cabin	1950	Fair	building-1	Girl Scout Camp	
			Skidmore House	Calvert	Cove Point	Camp Camp Conoy Road	Domestic	Single Dwelling	house	ca. 1940	Fair	building-1		
			Skidmore Garage	Calvert	Cove Point	Camp Camp Conoy Road	Domestic	Secondary Structure	garage	ca. 1940	Fair/poor	building-1	Garage and cottage reported in 1979 MHT survey.	
			Skidmore Shed	Calvert	Cove Point	Camp Camp Conoy Road	Domestic	Secondary Structure	shed	ca. 1940	Fair	building-1		
			Skidmore Outbuildin g	Calvert	Cove Point	Camp Camp Conoy Road	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	storage	ca. 1940	Poor	building-1		

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## Table of Resources at Calvert Cliffs State Park

MIHP/Site #	SITENO ( or DMI #)	MHT NAME	MdDNR/Other Names	County	Quad	Address	Property Category	Property Sub- Category	Property ID	Date of Resource	Condition	Resource Count	Notes	MHT Concurrence
			Piper Cottage	Calvert	Cove Point	On shore at end of interior access road	Domestic	Single Dwelling	cottage	ca. 1950	Poor	building-1	1978 MHT Survey reported Piper house, 2 storage bldgs, garage, cabin.	
CT- 285		Helb Barn, site (F. Helb Barn, Calvert Cliffs S.P. Barn)	18CV329	Calvert	Cove Point	H.G. Trueman Road (MD 765)		Animal Facility	bank barn	1881	Fair	site-1	Same as site 18CV329	
			Bay Breeze Kitchen	Calvert	Cove Point		Recreation/C ulture	Outdoor Recreation	campgrou nd	1950	Ruin	site-1	Girl Scout Camp	
			Skidmore Barn Ruin	Calvert	Cove Point	Camp Camp Conoy Road		Storage	barn	ca. 1940	Poor	site-1		
CT- 294		Dixon Cemetery	Dixon Cemetery	Calvert	Cove Point	Camp Conoy Road	Funerary	Cemetery	cemetery	ca.1812- mid 19th century	Poor	site-1		
			Site	Calvert	Cove Point		Government	Social	unknown	unknown	Fair	site-1	Reported almshouse site, but no additional information is known.	

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## Table of Resources at Calvert Cliffs State Park

MIHP/Site #	SITENO ( or DMI #)	MHT NAME	MdDNR/Other Names	County	Quad	Address	Property Category	Property Sub- Category	Property ID	Date of Resource	Condition	Resource Count	Notes	MHT Concurrence
	011		Bay Breeze Pump House			End of Camp Bay Beach Rd, off Camp Conoy Rd.	Culture	Outdoor Recreation	pump house	1950	Fair	structure-1	Girl Scout Camp	
18CV 329	329	Helb Barn	CT 285	Calvert	Cove Point			Animal Facility	bank barn	1881	Demo'd 1993		Same as CT- 285	
	012		Shelter @ Site 2	Calvert	Cove Point		Recreation/ Culture	Outdoor Recreation	shelter	1965	Fair			
	013		Shelter @ Site 5	Calvert	Cove Point		Recreation/ Culture	Outdoor Recreation	shelter	1965	Fair			
	002		Picnic Shelter	Calvert	Cove Point		Recreation/ Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Shelter	1971	Good			
	018		Water Treatment Building	Calvert	Cove Point		Recreation/ Culture	Outdoor Recreation	pump house/wat er treatment	1994	Good			
	019		Restroom	Calvert	Cove Point		Recreation/ Culture	Outdoor Recreation	comfort station	1998	Good			
	022		Contact Station	Calvert	Cove Point		Recreation/ Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Contact Station	1999	Fair		***	
	020		Friends Garage	Calvert	Cove Point		Recreation/ Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Storage	1999	Good			
	021		Park Vehicle Shed	Calvert	Cove Point		Recreation/ Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Storage	2000	Good			
			Dam	Calvert	Cove Point	Interior access road	Transportati on	road- related	dam	ca. 1970			Dam reported on rd to former Piper property.	

07-1296

8. Signifi Period	Areas of Sig	ınificance C	heck and jus	Inventory No.	
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 2000-	agricultu archeolo architec art commer	ore ture  ture X ce nications nity planning	economics education engineering	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law	performing arts philospohy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dat	es 19	966		Architect/Builder N	I/A
Constructio	n dates ca	. 1940-1950			
Evaluation for	r:				
x N	ational Register	r	x M	laryland Register	not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.) SUMMARY

Calvert Cliffs State Park contains approximately 1,313 acres located on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay in southern Calvert County, Maryland (Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) Acquisition list 2002; MdDNR 2002). The scenic centerpiece of Calvert Cliffs State Park is the high escarpment along the eastern edge of the park overlooking the bay. The park has a varied topography, comprising sandy Chesapeake Bay beaches, bay/stream confluences, tidal marshes, wooded freshwater swamp, nearly vertical cliffs, steeply-sided and gullied stream valleys, rolling hills, ponds, overgrown farm fields, and upland woods. In some areas, the parkland exhibits a drastic transition from marine coastal environment to upland woods. The highest point in the park is approximately 121 feet above mean sea level (amsl).

The purpose of this Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form is to evaluate Calvert Cliffs State Park as a potential historic district and to assess each MdDNR-owned resource constructed prior to 1960 applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR Part 60.4[a-d]) and the Criteria for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 83B, Title 5). Elements examined as part of this analysis included spatial patterns and land use, topography, water features, circulation networks, cultural traditions, buildings and structures, clusters, and archeological sites.

#### PARK HISTORY

8 Significance

A park at Calvert Cliffs was proposed as early as 1952, when the Maryland State Planning Commission included the location in its publication, Master Plan, Maryland State Parks and Recreation Areas (MD State Planning Commission 1952). The document called the Cliffs of Calvert "one of the outstanding beauty spots of the State." It continued, "...their scenic value and historical importance, because of the deposits of fossils from the Miocene Age, more than justify the acquisition of at least a small portion to be used and preserved for the people of Maryland."

The 1952 master plan proposed acquiring 185 acres near Lusby, which included part of the cliffs, nearly a mile of beachfront, woods, and a minimum amount of farmland. The park was proposed to consist of two centers, one north of the headland and one south. Each center would include a bathhouse, parking area, and picnic center. Other proposed improvements included a small administrative center on the north end, trails, lookouts, and beach improvements. The total projected cost was \$50,000 for land acquisition, including right-of-way to Maryland Route 2, and \$54,425 for improvements. The projected net expense was \$4,200, which anticipated \$1,700 in operating revenue.

Land acquisition began in 1966, when the Maryland Department of Forests and Parks acquired nearly 854 acres from Enterprise Land Company. The following year, the first of several planning studies for the park were conducted (MdDNR 1979:1). Initial

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planning consisted of research, data collection, field reconnaissance, and a topographic survey (MdDNR 1967:119). A day use area was planned for the area adjacent to Maryland Routes 2 and 4. The site of a temporary day use area for use by local residents was selected. A picnic shelter was constructed in the area by 1971 (MdDNR 1979:7; MdDNR DMI 2002).

In 1967, the Maryland Department of Forests and Parks produced a statewide Action Program for Development, outlining proposed park development for the next ten years. Calvert Cliffs was slated to receive nearly \$3.7 million in development funds for two areas, recreation and environmental education. Most of the funds, \$2.4 million, were earmarked for recreation, consisting of a swimming pool complex, group picnicking area, 50-meter pool, bathhouse, four comfort stations, four shelters, and a park office. The schedule outlined in the document proposed project planning from February to May 1974, with the design completed between August 1974 and January 1975. Construction would occur from April 1975 to January 1976. The proposed Environmental Education Area consisted of a major access road, bridge, interpretive center, observation platform, and parking. Planning was to begin for that section in May 1974 and construction was to be completed in May 1977 (Maryland Department of Forests and Parks 1971:14-15). None of these plans were implemented.

Two more land purchases in 1968 added approximately 128 acres to the park. The remaining acreage was purchased during the next two decades. The last land purchase was completed in 1982 (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 2003). In 1968, the Maryland and the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation agreed to fund jointly the acquisition of 847 acres immediately south of existing park acreage, but within the original proposed park acquisition boundary (MdDNR 1979:6). However, the Columbia Liquid Natural Gas Corporation took options on the 847 acres intended for joint state and federal purchase. The gas company proceeded to build a liquid natural gas unloading and revaporization terminal on the land (MdDNR 1979:6). The plant was mothballed in 1980, but is scheduled to reopen in 2003.

According to the Board of Natural Resources annual report for 1968, a master plan was under development. The 1968 annual report stated "...detailed plans have been prepared for the initial development which will consist of roads, parking, picnicking and play equipment" (Board of Natural Resources 1968:88). The Preliminary Master Development Plan for Calvert Cliffs, dated January 1970, presented development options similar to those proposed in the earlier Action Program for Development. It presented recreational development options, an erosion control plan for the cliffs, and a proposal for an environmental awareness program. Proposed facilities included an interpretive center with a small museum and amphitheater, a swimming basin with a bathhouse and beach access, group and family picnic areas, a carry-out store, group and family camping areas, and a lodge with a restaurant. However, in May 1970 the state re-evaluated its plans in light of the construction of the Columbia Liquid Natural Gas Corporation facility.

In the 1972 Annual Activities Report of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the park was described as "operational," but only a day use area was available (MdDNR 1972:6). In the 1973 annual report, Calvert Cliffs was described as a "general recreation park," and again, its amenities were not described (MdDNR 1974:37). In 1974, the state General Assembly authorized \$30,000 to build shore erosion protection measures and other protective devices needed to stabilize the cliffs (MdDNR 1974).

State recreation officials shifted the proposed focus of the park from recreation to nature-based aesthetic amenities in 1975. A new Concept Plan for Calvert Cliffs State Park recommended "a substantial reduction in the scale of recreational development" (MdDNR 1979:9). It proposed an expansion of the existing day use area near the park entrance, an interpretive center on the southern end of the cliffs, a group camping area on the site of the existing Girl Scout camp, a trail system throughout the park, a maintenance center, and a superintendent's residence. The concept plan did not include any of the earlier large-scale proposals, such as a swimming pool, an amphitheater, or a lodge with a restaurant (MdDNR 1979:9). Attendees at a public information meeting generally approved the reduced development as proposed (MdDNR 1979:1).

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In 1979, a Revised Development Plan restated the state's desire to limit development of the site. "The emphasis in planning Calvert Cliffs State Park is on the protection and interpretation of its outstanding natural and scenic features," the report stated (MdDNR 1979:31). According to the plan, "It is expected that only minimal disruption to the environment will result from the development projects. Reducing potential adverse environmental impacts has been an overriding concern of this plan" (MdDNR 1979:2). According to that plan, the day use area remained the only developed recreational area in the park. Its facilities included a renovated fishing pond, picnic tables and grills, a group picnic shelter, a children's playground, two vault toilets, a well and hand water pump, and parking for 140 cars. Park use focused on sightseeing, nature interpretation, beachcombing, fossil collecting, birdwatching, and hunting for deer and squirrel.

The Revised Development Plan proposed adding an interpretive center, a youth group camping area, family and group picnicking areas, a trail system, a park office, and a park residence. The location of the park entrance and access road would be moved, and a shuttle bus would be used to transport visitors through the park interior, to protect delicate soils. The interpretive center was intended as the focal point of the park to offer an "extensive interpretive program focusing on the Chesapeake Bay and the Cliffs of Calvert." The site was to be located at the south end of the cliffs, set back 150 feet from the cliffs. This location would meet construction requirements, provide beach access, and be far enough away from the cliffs so that the land underneath would not erode in the near future (MdDNR 1979:31-44). The Revised Development Plan suggested several measures to ensure that the proposed development did not damage the park's natural features. The measures included locating structures and activity areas where the vegetation, soil, and topography would not be damaged; retaining as much existing vegetation as possible and planting more where appropriate; providing an amount of parking that prevented amenities from being overused; preserving the natural setting of the cliffs; and, employing sound erosion control methods during construction (MdDNR 1979:45).

Most of the development and alteration suggestions proposed in the 1979 plan were not implemented. According to a Land Unit Summary prepared for Calvert Cliffs State Park in 1994, "Phased design programs to implement the 1979 Master Plan were completed in 1980-1981," but "(t)he proposed improvements ... such as the relocated entry road, have not been implemented." A new well and pump house were constructed in the day use area in 1994 to supply drinkable water and to support the comfort station proposed for construction in 1996 (MdDNR 1994:1-3).

In 1990, the Thomas Creek watershed, comprising 1,079 acres, was designated as a Maryland wildland. The wildland designation is an overlay use on a MdDNR land unit that recognizes the wilderness characteristics of an area or its outstanding and unique natural features that are worthy of preservation in a natural state (MdDNR 2002). In the case of Calvert Cliffs State Park, the park's outstanding and unique natural feature is the cliffs along the Chesapeake Bay, which provide "the best publicly accessibly example of the Miocene fossil record in Maryland." Other aspects of the park worthy of preservation in a natural state are the park's extensive areas of steep slopes and narrow ridges; the forest, which covers 90 per cent of the park and is "one of the largest protected contiguous forest habitat complexes in southern Maryland"; and, the habitation for two federally listed protected tiger beetle species that live at the park. The 1994 Land Unit Plan identified the following long-term themes for the park: protect and interpret the Calvert Cliffs and their fossil resources; protect the natural forest in a wild state; "protect an opportunity for visitors to experience and understand the Chesapeake region's geological past and a natural forest of the coastal plain"; and, "promote the survival" of the tiger beetles and their habitat (MdDNR 1994:4).

As of 2002, the park's amenities consisted of fishing, hiking trails, hunting, picnicking, youth group camping, a playground, and shelters (MdDNR 2002). The day use area is the primary recreation facility in the park. The day use area has tire playgrounds, parking, picnic shelters, a fishing pond, a comfort station constructed in 1998, a contact station constructed in 1999, and vehicle storage sheds constructed in 1999 and 2000 (MdDNR DMI 2002).

**EVALUATION** 

## Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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The purpose of this Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form is to evaluate Calvert Cliffs State Park as a potential historic district and to assess each MdDNR-owned built resource constructed prior to 1960 applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR Part 60.4[a-d]) and the Criteria for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 83B, Title 5). In order to undertake this evaluation, it is appropriate to discuss the park as a cultural landscape applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes (McClelland and Keller 1995) and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Birnbaum 1996). Elements examined as part of this analysis included spatial patterns and land use, topography, water features, circulation networks, cultural traditions, buildings and structures, clusters, and archeological sites.

The first land acquisitions for Calvert Cliffs State Park occurred in 1966. The last land purchased occurred in 1982. The park contains few facilities constructed to support recreation purposes and no recreational facilities constructed prior to 1960. The majority of the acreage in the park is designated Maryland wildland and will not be developed.

As a park, the appropriate historic context for evaluating Calvert Cliffs State Park is the theme of public recreation during the period 1966 to the present. The buildings and the management practices that have shaped the park since 1966 are not yet fifty years old. Thus, Calvert Cliffs State Park as defined by its 2003 legal boundaries would need to possess the qualities of exceptional significance for listing as a historic district under National Register Criterion Consideration G. The park landscape has been managed primarily for its scenic and natural resources. The park buildings built since 1971 are constructed of modern materials. The park buildings are concentrated near a day use area established in 1971 near the southwest boundary of the park near Maryland Route 2. These buildings do not exhibit exceptionally distinguished architectural designs for their types, periods, or methods of construction, nor are they associated with the work of modern masters (Criterion C).

The historical record suggests that the area within the park boundaries was largely uninhabited. The deeply-incised stream valleys and narrow ridges were not conducive to supporting large-scale agriculture and impeded settlement in the area. The oldest resources in the park, i.e., the Dixon Cemetery (MIHP # CT-294) and the Helb Barn site (MIHP # CT-285 and Site 18CV329), are located on the western periphery of park property near Maryland Route 2, which was the historic road that skirted what are now park lands. Since 1878, the documented land use in the region supported timbering. Frederick Helb operated a timbering business in the area until ca. 1905. Small-scale subdivision that occurred during the mid-twentieth century also was concentrated along the main road at the western edge of what is now park property. The Skidmore House and outbuildings, constructed ca.1940, are located on a 12-acre parcel along Maryland Route 4 near the western boundary of the park and illustrate the trend to subdivision in rural areas. During the 1950s, the region became attractive for recreation. The Girl Scouts established Camp Bay Breeze on the cliffs overlooking the park. Two summer residences were also constructed south of the camp on the cliff.

The buildings and the topography located within Calvert Cliffs State Park do not meet the definition of cultural landscape nor historic district as a class of property appropriate to list on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings and identified resources are widely dispersed throughout the park and do not form a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, structures, or objects that are united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. The landscape in the park is not an historic designed landscape that was consciously designed, nor does it exhibit the characteristics of an historic vernacular landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped it. The park does not exhibit integrated patterns of land use, circulation networks, buildings and structures or clusters, or archeological sites. Documentation to date does not suggest that the park lands are significant for any association with a historic event, activity or person or an ethnographic landscape that contains a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources. Thus, the landscape and the buildings contained in Calvert Cliffs State Park do not possess the required significance to qualify for listing as an historic district in the National Register of Historic Places.

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The individual buildings constructed prior to 1960 located in Calvert Cliffs State Park include a domestic complex, a cottage, and three buildings that remain from a former Girl Scout Camp. The buildings all date from the mid-twentieth century (ca. 1940-ca. 1950). These buildings are simply-designed vernacular residential complexes or utilitarian constructions. The extant buildings do not individually exhibit the qualities of architectural significance for their types, periods, or methods of construction; for high artistic value; or, for association with the work of a master (National Register Criterion C). The buildings are not associated with significant patterns of state and local history (Criterion A). The buildings associated with the former Girl Scout Camp and the Piper Cottage are not documented as associated with persons significant in the past (Criterion B). The Skidmore House was not evaluated applying Criterion B. The Dixon Cemetery (MIHP # CT-294) and the two historic archeological sites were not evaluated as part of this investigation applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

#### RESOURCE HISTORY

The prehistoric and historic contexts relevant to Charles County have been organized around chronological periods and themes identified by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) in its cultural resources documents (MHT 2000).

#### HISTORIC CONTEXT

Contact and Settlement Period (1570 - 1750)

English settlements within the Chesapeake region began with Jamestown in 1607. Despite a precarious existence during its first years, the community survived and grew as part of the colony of Virginia. Thereafter, the English presence in the Chesapeake firmly was established. In 1632, King Charles I granted the charter for the Maryland colony to Cecilius Calvert, the Second Lord Baltimore. In return for his father's services to the crown, Charles gave Lord Baltimore a colony north of the Potomac, with extensive governing powers (Hirrel 1981:4-5). Lord Baltimore at once went about finding colonists to settle his new territory, and, by 1634, the first settlers landed in Maryland.

Lord Baltimore envisioned a Maryland that would resemble English manorial society. The gentry would own relatively large tracts of land, with tenant planters working on the land. Moreover, as a Catholic, he expected Maryland to offer a religious refuge to his fellow Catholics, although he clearly expected Protestants to practice their own religion in the colony. During its first few years, the Maryland colony resembled Lord Baltimore's vision, at least in the respect that the gentlemen of the province established manors and dominated the political life of the colony. When a rebellion from 1645 to 1647 virtually depopulated the colony, the manorial structure collapsed. In its place, Maryland society became a community dominated by small-scale planters. These planters often were former indentured servants who operated small tobacco farms, usually about 50 acres. The planters were overwhelmingly Protestant (often "puritan" in their tendencies); as such, they frequently resisted rule by the Catholic Calvert family and its allies.

The first settlement in what is now Calvert County was a Jesuit mission settlement at Mataponi during the early 1640s. Large-scale settlement of the shores of the Patuxent River began after 1647. These settlers were strongly Protestant and distrustful of the Catholic Lord Baltimore, despite Maryland's Act Concerning Religion of 1649 (Stein 1976:20-23; Hirrel 1981:49-58). The first attempt to establish a separate jurisdiction in what is now Calvert County came in 1650. Lord Baltimore appointed Robert Brooke as commander of a new county on the north bank of the Patuxent River, which was named Charles County. Brooke acquiesced to the surrender of Baltimore's authority to the Parliamentary commissioners, and thus incurred the proprietor's wrath. Baltimore responded in 1654 by removing Brooke and creating Calvert County on the banks of the Patuxent. Because Baltimore's opponents controlled the government, they designated the new jurisdiction Patuxent County until 1658. The original boundaries included what is now Prince George's County (Stein 1976:18-24).

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Despite the political turmoil, the county rapidly increased in population. In 1642, the region near the Patuxent had a population of only 42; by 1667, the estimated population grew to 2,130, which included what is now Prince George's County. Until the creation of Prince George's County in 1695, Calvert County was the largest county in Maryland. In 1696, when Calvert County had reached its present boundaries, its population was estimated to be 2,720 (Karanen 1959:386). During the 1680s, population in the region of Cove Point was large enough to support Middleham Chapel, a chapel of ease in the Christ Church Parish (Anglican). The permanent chapel was constructed in 1748 (MIHP # CT-60).

Early settlers were predominantly small-scale planters. The typical resident arrived as an indentured servant, although free immigrants also were represented. During the seventeenth century, the indentured servant could expect to receive a 50-acre freehold upon the completion of his indenture, assuming that he survived the Chesapeake's fearful mortality rate. After completion of their service, these small-scale planters contributed to society as jurors, minor office holders, or even assembly members. The reliance of planters on tobacco produced economic uncertainty. The price of tobacco, which fluctuated from year to year, generally diminished throughout the seventeenth century (Menard 1975:224-231, 278-290).

The provincial government repeatedly tried to create new towns, but with little success. In 1667, the Assembly passed its first act for establishing towns. The county seat of Calvertown, located on Battle Creek, dates from this period, as does an unsuccessful attempt to create a town on St. Leonard's Creek. In 1683, the Maryland Assembly passed another act for the "Laying out of Towns"; its purpose was to establish ports of entry so that tax collectors could perform their duties. Along the Patuxent River, towns were surveyed at what is now Lower Marlborough, and at the head of Hunting Creek (Stein 1976:45, 56-57).

Rural Agrarian Intensification (1680 - 1815)

Towards the close of the seventeenth century, society in southern Maryland was transformed from a community of small-scale planters to a society dominated by large plantations. A few Calvert County families achieved prominence and dominated political life of the county. Two wars with Great Britain punctuated this period: the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

By the 1690s, most of the available land in Calvert County was occupied, and demographic stability reduced the need for immigrants. One historian has commented that, by the close of the seventeenth century, most families that lived in Calvert County through the middle of the twentieth century could trace their ancestry to seventeenth century immigrants (Stein 1976:76). Indentured servants who previously had planned to acquire their own land at the close of their indenture were forced either to become tenant farmers or to move westward (Menard 1975:417-425).

Despite the slow increase of black slavery during the seventeenth century, the institution expanded rapidly at the beginning of the eighteenth century. By 1710, slaves accounted for 18 per cent of Maryland's population and 30 per cent of southern Maryland's population (Menard 1975:346).

With the growth of slavery came the appearance of large plantations. Prominent families produced an element of political stability in eighteenth-century Maryland that was conspicuously lacking in the seventeenth century. Members of leading families could hold office repeatedly and provided an element of continuity to local governments. The demographic stability achieved by the development of a naturally reproducing society added to the political stability (Stein 1976: 98-99; Jordan 1979: 243-273).

Once established, the plantation-dominated culture of the eighteenth century changed very slowly. Prices fluctuated and, until 1740, costs often exceeded the profits; tobacco remained the staple crop of the region (Kulikoff 1984:118-119). Grain or food crops were grown only to meet the needs of the county. The extensive water transportation network provided a means of

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transportation not only within Maryland, but also to Great Britain. Because it was more economical to raise tobacco and to trade with Britain, the county did not develop an appreciable industrial base (Middleton 1953:93-133).

Until 1747, tobacco normally was marketed directly from the plantation to ships. In that year, a Tobacco Inspection Act required the use of centralized inspection points. In Calvert County, St. Leonard's Creek, Hunting Creek, and Lower Marlborough became the most important inspection points. By the close of the eighteenth century, most tobacco was shipped through the city of Baltimore (Wesler et al. 1981:112).

Residents of Calvert County supported the American Revolution enthusiastically. The war came to Calvert County in 1780 when British warships raided plantations near the mouth of the Patuxent (Stein 1976:129-133). Following the Revolutionary War, Calvert County remained tied to a tobacco economy. Other areas within the Chesapeake turned to other crops, but the counties of southern Maryland found that they could still grow tobacco at a profit. The population had reached 8,652 by 1790. For the next 40 years, the county's population remained between 8,000 and 9,000 (Wesler et al. 1981:113).

Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815 - 1870)

While other regions of Maryland were moving towards a mixed agricultural and industrial economy, Calvert County remained overwhelmingly agrarian. Tobacco continued to be the most important cash crop. The use of slave labor ended during the Civil War, but otherwise the economy changed very little. The county's peculiar geography as a peninsula separated by the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay hindered the development of overland transportation systems, and ensured the primacy of waterborne transportation.

In 1817, the Weems Steamboat line opened service from Baltimore to southern Maryland, including Calvert County. Despite an explosion aboard the first steamboat in 1824, the line added new boats and continued its service throughout the nineteenth century. Because road systems were poor, the steamboat line provided the only reliable transportation of crops (Stein 1976:168-172). Cove Point Lighthouse (MIHP # CT-65) was constructed in 1828 as one of a series of twelve navigational aids designed by John Donohoo to support shipping in the Chesapeake Bay. The station at Cove Point also included a lighthousekeeper's house (Maryland Historical Trust 2003).

During the Civil War, residents of Calvert County, like the other counties in southern Maryland, sided with the Confederacy. Most of the men from Calvert County who served during the war fought for the South. Union forces occupied the county and established a camp and prison at the mouth of Battle Creek (Stein 1976:178-179). Because the state of Maryland remained loyal to the Union, Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation did not affect slave holding in Maryland. Nevertheless, Marylanders ended the institution of slavery in the constitution of 1864 (Stein 1976:179-180). Many of the freedmen moved to Baltimore, creating a labor shortage in Calvert County. Blacks who remained in southern Maryland usually worked as sharecroppers. Most likely the planters discovered ways of joining together to prevent the labor shortages from increasing the wages of the freedmen (Brugger 1988:329).

During the nineteenth century, the Dixon family owned some land currently located within Calvert Cliffs State Park. Robert Dixon, the owner of Middlesex, was reported as the name on a 1789 map of "Part of Parran's Park (Stinson 1979). Richard Dixon, who died in 1812, is the earliest gravestone in the Dixon Family cemetery (MIHP # CT-294) located in the park. It is difficult to trace the land tenure history of the property since the county courthouse burned to the ground in 1882. The deed records were destroyed, except for the abstracts in the Maryland Hall of Records (Stein 1976:185-186). Genealogical files on the Dixon family located at the Calvert County Historical Society may contain information on the family.

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

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From the end of the Civil War to the beginning of the twentieth century, Calvert County's physical isolation impeded its economic development. At a time when other parts of Maryland were rapidly changing, Calvert County changed very little. Nevertheless, during these 60 years, especially during the years after World War I, seemingly small developments set the foundation for the county's growth in the later twentieth century.

Following the Civil War, the counties of southern Maryland languished under a stagnant tobacco-based economy. In an 1891 survey of the Maryland economy, John Thomas Scharf ranked Calvert County lowest in assessed property values, followed by St. Mary's and Charles Counties (Scharf 1892: 8). The tendency of freed slaves to leave the county reduced tobacco production. From 1860 to 1870, the quantity of tobacco produced dropped by 50 per cent (Wesler et al. 1981: 113; Stein 1976: 183).

During the post Civil War period, Calvert County residents began to turn to the Chesapeake Bay's fishing and shellfish as an alternative source of income. Solomons Island, then called Somervell's Island, became the home of a 500 boat fishing fleet, most of which was built on the island. Most of the fledgling industry concentrated on oysters (Stein 1976:183). During the later nineteenth century, an oyster canning plant was built on Solomons Island. Workers came to the island from outside the county, marking one of the few influxes of new people since the beginning of the eighteenth century (Footner 1942:275-282). The 1880 and 1890 census records indicated that a substantial number of the residents in the vicinity of the project area worked as oystermen.

Other activities in the southern section of Calvert County included agriculture and timbering. In the region near St. Leonard's and Solomon's Island, crops included tobacco, wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, and hay. Oak, pine, and chestnut trees provided the basis for a timbering industry (Calvert County, Maryland Directory 1878). In 1878, Frederick Helb, a German-born tanner who resided in York County, Pennsylvania, assembled nearly 1,000 acres in Calvert County. One purchase of 755 acres was forest land located between the public road and Cove Point. Helb also purchased 101 acres of agricultural land that contained a dwelling. On this latter property, the Helb Barn (MIHP # CT-285) was constructed in 1881 to support the lumbering business. The barn housed draft animals. By the end of the nineteenth century, Helb owned two saw and stave mills in the county; one mill was located near Lusby and the second was located at Cove Point. By 1883, Helb owned the wharf at Cove Point and an additional 85 acres described as a 'mill swamp.' Helb's lumbering business in the area ended before or with his death in 1905. The family continued to manage the family businesses in York County, but sold the business interests and the land in Calvert County to local residents (Croson and Gibb 1995:2; 58-62). Drum Point 15 minute USGS Quadrangle Maps dated 1892 and 1905 depicted little development in the area now comprised in Calvert Cliffs State Park. The main road made a wide arc around the property to avoid the deeply incised creek valleys. The few buildings depicted on these maps were located close to the road.

In 1915, the first modern hard-surface highway was constructed in Calvert County; the road ran the length of the peninsula from Solomons Island northward. It was soon followed by other hard surface roads and by a lateral road network. With a suitable overland transportation system, other improvements soon followed. Prince Frederick expanded with the construction of a new high school, library, and theater buildings.

Modern Period (1930 - Present)

As Calvert County has progressed through the twentieth century, the pace of change has increased. Although tobacco has remained the staple crop, the county's economy has diversified, especially in the years following World War II.

World War II accelerated the pace of modernization in Calvert County. The similarity between the county's cliffs and the cliffs of Normandy caused the county to become the site of practice amphibious assaults. The Navy opened an underwater mine testing station at Patience Point, near the mouth of the Patuxent. Across the river, the Navy also opened a major aviation installation, the

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Patuxent Naval Air Station. After the war, the station became an important source of income and employment (Stein 1976:226).

Other changes followed during the post war era. The areas along the Chesapeake Beaches attracted tourists and some modest summer resorts. During the 1950s, the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital established Bay Breeze Girl Scout Camp, a resident summer camp on approximately 86 acres overlooking the cliffs. At one time, Bay Breeze Camp had six cliff-side cabins, a 125-seat dining hall, 25 wood platform tents with canvas sides, and running water ("Summer Day Camp" 2001). The Girl Scouts sold the camp to MdDNR in 1974. A few other isolated summer cottages, such as the Piper Cottage and Queen House (no longer extant), were located along the cliffs. Cove Point developed as a summer community.

In the 1970s, Baltimore Gas and Electric opened its power plant at Calvert Cliffs, and became a major source of income for the region. A liquefied natural gas plant also opened south of the park. The facility comprised an off-shore loading platform and an on-shore revaporization plant. The facility was mothballed during 1980, but was scheduled to reopen during the summer of 2003.

Today, Calvert County reflects its lengthy heritage and an expanding economy. Tobacco and shellfish remain important sources of employment. Yet the county has developed new economic enterprises, such as sub-installations of the Patuxent Naval Air Station or the Calvert Cliffs power plant. The northern portions of the county have even begun to be incorporated into the outer fringes of the ever-expanding suburbs of Washington, D.C.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1296

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1,313

Acreage of historical setting 1,31

Quadrangle name

Cove Point MD

Quadrangle scale

1:24,000

#### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the survey area comprise all property owned by Maryland Department of Natural Resources within the legal boundaries of Calvert Cliffs State Park as of March and April 2003.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	A. Levinthal, K. Grandine, C. Heidenrich		
organization	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	date	9/11/03
street and number	241 E. 4th Street, Suite 100	telephone 30	1-694-0428
city or town	Frederick	state MD zip co	ode 21701

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCD/DHCP

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032

410-514-7600

Inventory No. CT-1296

Name Calvert Cliffs State Park

Continuation Sheet

Number

9 Page

1

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Inventory No. CT-1296

Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County, Maryland Continuation Sheet

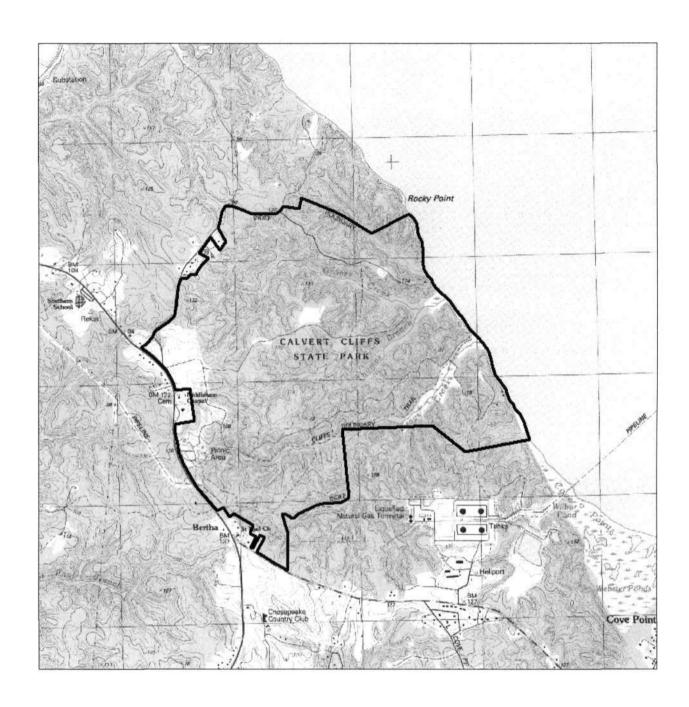
Number Photo log Page 1

The following information is the same for each photograph:

- 1. MIHP # CT-1296
- 2. Calvert Cliffs State Park
- 3. Calvert County, Maryland
- 4. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
- 5. April 2003
- 6. MD SHPO

#### Photo#

- 1. The cliffs along the Chesapeake Bay, view looking north.
- 2. Bog iron rocks on beach, view looking north.
- 3. View of cliffs, view looking south.
- Bay Breeze Cabin, view looking north.
- 5. Bay Breeze Pump House, view looking west.
- Bay Breeze Outhouse, view looking west.
- 7. Piper Cottage, view looking west.
- 8. Skidmore House, view looking south.
- 9. Skidmore Garage, view looking east.
- 10. Skidmore Shed, view looking south.
- 11. Skidmore outbuilding, view looking south.
- 12. Overall view of Dixon Cemetery (CT-294) view looking south.
- 13. Detail of grave marker in Dixon Cemetery (CT-294), view looking west.
- 14. Tobacco Barn off Cove Point Road, view looking north.
- 15. Helb Barn (CT-285, Site 18CV329), view looking east.
- 16. Reported site of county almshouse, view looking north.



CT-1296

Calvert Cliffs State Park

Cove Point Quad



CT-1296 calvert cliff SP Colvert Co. HD RCG-A 4/2003 MD SAPO cliff, looking N 1/16



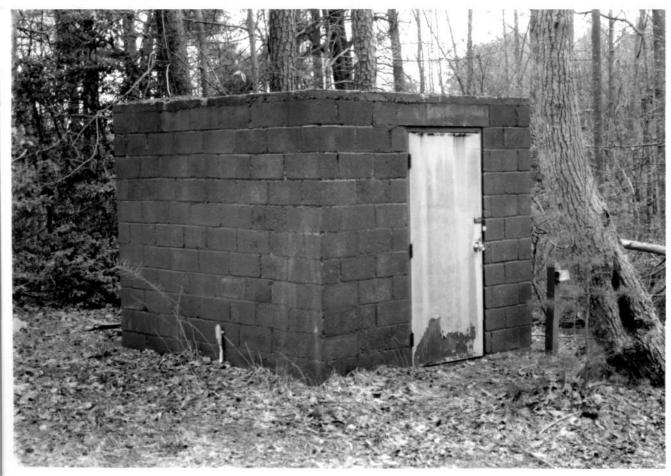
CT- 1296 Calvert Cliffs SP Calvert Co. MD RGG-A 4/2003 MD SHPO Bog iron rocks, looking N 2/16



(T- 1296 Calvert Cliff SP calvert to MD ecg A April 2003 MD SHPO Cliffs, looking south



· CT-1296 calvert Cliffs SP Calvert Co HD RCG A April 2003 HD SHPO Bay Breeze Cabin, looking N 4/16



CT- 1296 Calvert Cliffs SP Calvert Co MD KC6 A 4/2003 MD SHPO Boy Breeze pump hse, looking West 5/16



Bay Breeze outher, looking W

CT-1296

RCGA 4/2003

6/16

MD SHPO

Calvert Cliffs SP calvert Co. HD



CT-1294 Calvert Cliffs SP calvert co. MD RCGA 4/2003 MD SHPO Piper cottage, looking west



CT- 1296
Calvert Cliffs SP
Calvert Co. MD
RCGA
4/2003
HD SHPO
Skidmore Hse, looking S
8/16



CT-1296 Calvert Cliffs SP Calvert Co MD RCG-A 4/2003 MD SHPO skidmore garage, looking E 9/16



CT-1296 Calvert Cliffs Sp Culvert & MD 8CEA 4/2003 MD SHPO stidmore shed, looking south 10/16



calvert cliffs SP Calvert Co MD 4/2003 MD SHPO Skidmore out bldg, looking S

CT-1296

P.CGA

11/16



CT-1296
Calvert Cliffs SP
Calvert Co. MD
RCGA
4/2003
MD SHPO
Dixon Cemetery (CT-294) looking S
12/16

THE MEMORY SCHOOL DINGN WOTO DEPARTIED THIS LINE MARCH 10.1812 ASSE 35 VEARS AND D MONTHIS. P. A Cother Steve their and Int leve Ind difficult to find I father my instant safet There our but Ru heliond

calvert Cliffs SP Calvert Co. MD ROGA 4/2003 Grave marker, Dixon cemetery (CT-294), looking West 13/16

CT- 1296



CT-1296 Calvert Cliffs SP calvert Co. MD RCGA 4 2003 HD SHPO Tobacco barn, looking North 14/16



CT-1296 calvert Cliffs SP Calvert Co. MD CCC- A 4/2003 Helb barn (CT-285, 18CV329), looking tast MD SHPO 15/16



CT-1296 Calvert Cliffs SP colvert co . HD RCGA Reported site of county almshoe, looking N 16 16